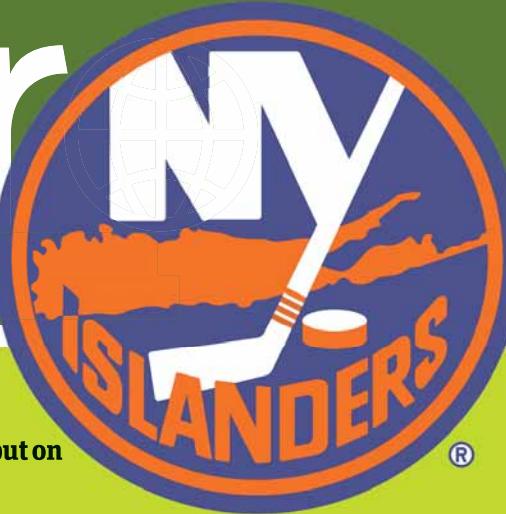


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HOMECOMING

Isles flee Brooklyn, make Nassau Coliseum debut on Saturday night. 16

Your guide to December's best events. 13

Bill Burr on keeping it real with 'F Is for Family.' 14

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NEW LOOK ON LIFE

Less than a year after undergoing a groundbreaking face transplant, Cameron Underwood revealed his new self on Thursday at NYU Langone Health. 6-7



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THINGS TO KNOW



KRISTIN TOUSSAINT, REPORTER

Most of us can't even imagine being wounded so bad that you lose most of your jaw, your nose and part of your upper face. Or what it would take to fix those injuries through a 25-hour surgery. But NYU Langone Health gave us a glimpse into that experience when Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez and Cameron Underwood shared their journey on Thursday. Underwood received a face transplant at NYU Langone Health in January, marking the second-ever face transplant at that health facility. And it was monumental in a few ways. Read more about how inside and at [metro.us](#).

WELCOME TO METRO.US

MADOFF PONZI VICTIMS RECEIVE ANOTHER PAYOUT

IVictims of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme will soon receive another \$695.3 million from a government compensation fund, the U.S. Department of Justice announced on Thursday, less than two weeks before the 10th anniversary of the swindler's arrest. The payout, to more than 27,300 victims, is the third from the Madoff Victim Fund, which has roughly \$4 billion and was set up in November 2013 to help individuals, schools, charities, pension plans and others recoup their losses from the fraud. With the distribution, victims will

have received \$1.97 billion from the fund, which is run by former U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Richard Breeden. An additional \$803 million has been earmarked for payout, for a total \$2.77 billion to be paid to roughly 37,000 victims, including 22,000 who had previously recovered nothing. Another \$13.3 billion has been recovered by court-appointed trustee Irving Picard for former customers of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. He estimates they lost \$17.5 billion, and Picard has paid out \$11.28 billion so far.

BILL TO BAN CASHLESS BUSINESSES PROPOSED

2 Cash or credit? If you look at any U.S. paper currency, it says "legal tender for all debts, public and private" but that's not stopping some NYC restaurants, including Sweetgreen and Dig Inn, from accepting credit cards only. NYC Councilman Ritchie Torres, who represents the 15th District of Central Bronx, introduced legislation on Thursday that would ban cash-free business. On Twitter, Torres said, "Cash free businesses are discriminatory by design, and pose challenges to low-income communities that may not have access to credit/debit cards."

There are three primary reasons why an establishment goes cashless: ease, speed and no money to steal. And while there are some benefits, "that's hardly an excuse for discriminating against the underbanked," Torres said in an interview with Grub Street. The legislation, which already has three co-sponsors including Chaim Deutsch, Rafael Espinal and Keith Powers, would mandate the acceptance of cash. NYC Consumer Affairs would have the authority to issue fines: \$250 for the first offense and up to \$500 for additional violations.

TERRY MOSELEY



SCULPTURE OF SURRENDERED KNIVES TAKES ITS PLACE OUTSIDE LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL

3 The Knife Angel sculpture is lowered into place outside Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on Thursday in Liverpool, England. The Alfie Bradley creation is made from 100,000 knives collected during police amnesties and aims to highlight the impact of knife crime.

MAYWEATHER AND DJ KHALED FINED BY SEC

4 Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. and music producer DJ Khaled failed to disclose payments they received for promoting investments in initial coin offerings, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said on Thursday. Neither Mayweather nor Khaled Mohamed Khaled admitted or denied the regulator's charges, but agreed to pay a combined \$767,500 in fines and penalties, the SEC said in a statement. Reuters reported this week on the rise in self-proclaimed

social media personalities who charge thousands of dollars for positive reviews of cryptocurrencies without disclosing their investments in the asset. The SEC issued a warning about promotion of online fundraisers known as initial coin offerings (ICOs) on Nov. 1 last year. "Any celebrity or other individual who promotes a virtual token or coin that is a security must disclose the nature, scope, and amount of compensation received in exchange for the promotion," the SEC said in a public statement posted on its website.

UNESCO: REGGAE A GLOBAL CULTURAL TREASURE

5 UNESCO has declared reggae, the Jamaican music that spread across the world with its calls for social justice, peace and love, to be a global treasure that must be safeguarded. Born in the poor neighborhoods of Kingston in the 1960s, reggae reflected hard times and struggle but could also be joyous dance music with its distinctive off-beat. Its most famous songwriter and performer, the late Bob Marley, became a global superstar with hits like "No Woman, No Cry" and "Get Up, Stand Up." Other notables include Jimmy Cliff and Toots and the Maytals. Artists such as The Clash incorporated its chunky beat and politics into their own music, bringing it to a wider audience. It caught on from Britain to Brazil and Africa. "Its contribution to international discourse on issues of injustice, resistance, love and humanity underscores the dynamics of the element as being at once cerebral, socio-political, sensual and spiritual," UNESCO said in a statement. The Paris-based UNESCO, the cultural agency of the United Nations, made its ruling at a meeting this week.

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2018



As we enter the season of giving, Metro asks that you donate to Tony's Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive to help underprivileged children in your community. You can donate by visiting [metro.us/magic](#), clicking on the toy wish list link of your choice, and ordering via a secure payment system. Toys will then be distributed to local children in need.

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NEWS

The governor on Thursday unveiled some of the updates that are part of an \$8 billion transformation meant to bring LaGuardia Airport up to date.

 KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

Eleven new gates at LaGuardia Airport will open this weekend, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Thursday.

The new gates are part of an \$8 billion transformation meant to bring the aging airport into the 21st century.

Cuomo joined Port Authority of New York and New Jersey representatives along with LaGuardia Gateway Partners (a consortium

Cuomo announces 11 new gates to open at LaGuardia Saturday

of companies rebuilding Terminal B) to unveil the new 250,000-square-foot concourse, which houses 18 total gates to be occupied by Air Canada, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines.

Eleven of those gates will open Saturday, marking the start of a "whole new LaGuardia" which will, when all completed, encompass 2.7 million square feet, 72 new gates across six concourses, two new terminal arrivals and departure halls and 13.7 miles of new roadways.

The new LaGuardia Airport concourse will feature 55-foot-high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, an indoor park with benches and real trees, charging stations throughout the seating areas, a children's play area, a private nursing room and more.



IMAGE PROVIDED BY KEVIN P. COUGHLIN/OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

\$8B

In new facilities.

nation, but Cuomo said the comment was true.

"This was an embar-

rassment," he said at the unveiling. "The facility was designed for three million people a year. Now, we have 30 million people going through."

But now, the investment made to update LaGuardia shows New York is investing in its infrastructure, he said,

"LaGuardia is a metaphor. It's a metaphor for infrastructure in the state and it's a metaphor for infrastructure in the nation."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo

and that hopefully, the rest of the country will follow suit. The transformation will make LaGuardia the first new airport in the country in 25 years.

"LaGuardia is a metaphor. It's a metaphor for infrastructure in the state and it's a metaphor for infrastructure in the nation," Cuomo said at the unveiling. Now, with improvements, "The best is once again in New York and New York once again shows the way forward for this nation."



Many elected officials, community activists and artists are speaking out against Optimum Cable for not carrying OVATION TV.



"We pay a lot of money for Optimum. We are asking you to please consider Ovation Network for the value they bring to our communities"

- NYC Councilmember Jumaane Williams (D-Brooklyn)

"The fact that Optimum Cable doesn't carry the arts network Ovation TV to some of the most diverse arts communities like the Bronx, Brooklyn and Long Island sends the wrong message"

- Steve Cas, Illustrator, Brooklyn NY

"I use my art form to help homeless children and Ovation lets me tell my story on their channel"

- 8 year-old Miracle Robinson, Designer, Bronx NY

"Art is a form of healing I want to lift those people up when they're feeling down. Optimum needs to open their eyes and see the bigger picture"

- Kim "Good Look" Seabrook, Poet, Bronx NY

"It is truly an injustice that the only ones who don't have an opportunity to see these diverse and talented artists featured on Ovation TV, are the Optimum customers in these communities."

- Bertha Lewis, President of the Black Institute

"I'm here to tell Optimum to get it right, and provide access to the arts to people from all communities and walks of life"

- NYC Councilmember Donovan Richards (D-Queens)

It's time for Optimum to listen to their community and carry OVATION TV.

Visit ArtistsAgainstOptimum.org and join the coalition to tell Optimum to carry OVATION TV now!

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NYU Langone Health celebrates landmark second face transplant

Cameron Underwood revealed his new face at NYU Langone Health on Thursday.



KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

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ventional surgery could ever bring that patient back to the way he was."

"We're often asked about identity crisis following a face transplant," he said. "The real identity crisis and major burden is when a person has to live this way, when we understand the limitations of conventional surgery... and medicine short of a face transplant. As Cam faced it, his life was in pause."

Now, 11 months later, that life has been unpaused, after a six-month wait for a donor and a 25-hour surgery.

Underwood, from Yuba City, California, revealed his new face alongside Rodriguez at NYU Langone Health on Thursday.

The two talked about the face transplant journey, celebrating Underwood's remarkable recovery, the landmark face transplant achievements made, the importance of organ donors and the hope Underwood's story can give to others.

In June 2016, Underwood suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound, which left him without the majority of his lower jaw, all but one tooth, his nose, and damage to his upper face.

Pointing to a photo of Underwood from that time, Rodriguez said there was "no way con-

"I think that it's important to share my story to help inspire others to have hope and to seek help," Underwood said at NYU Langone Health.

"I'm so grateful to have a face transplant because it's giving me a second chance at life. There have been so many amazing advances in surgery — I'm living proof of that — but it only happens because of special people like Will and his family."

Underwood and Rodriguez



NYU Langone face transplant (left). NYU LANGONE PHOTOS | Face donor Will Fisher (far right). FISHER FAMILY

guez's journey marks the second-ever face transplant at NYU Langone Health and Rodriguez's third such surgery. NYU Langone Health is the only medical center in New York state — and one of just a handful in the country — with a dedicated face transplantation program.

More than 40 face

"I think that it's important to share my story to help inspire others. ... I'm so grateful to have a face transplant because it's giving me a second chance at life."

Cameron Underwood

transplants have been performed worldwide, but this particular one was marked by significant milestones.

Underwood experienced the shortest period of time from injury to transplant in the United States — 18 months total from his injury in June 2016 to his surgery on Jan. 5, 2018.

Underwood tried conventional surgeries at first, but they weren't enough. His mom, Beverly Bailey-Potter, read an article about Rodriguez's previous face transplant surgeries and reached out to NYU Langone Health.

Once accepted, Underwood then had the shortest wait time for a donor, staying on the organ donation list for just six months until coordinators with LiveOnNY identified Fisher, who ended up being a perfect match.

But Underwood and his family were in California, meaning they had to travel the longest-ever distance for a face transplant, coming to New

York City from 2,800 miles away and arriving miraculously amid the "Bomb Cyclone."

Underwood received financial reimbursement support from commercial insurance — a first for a face transplant case and a "watershed" moment in medicine, said G. Leslie Bernstein, administrator for the Face Transplant Program at NYU Langone Health and the principal negotiator with Underwood's private insurer.

Underwood's total time in surgery was 25 hours, much shorter than NYU Langone Health's first face transplant, which took more than 36 hours. Part of that improvement comes from the fact that this was the most technologically advanced face transplant, health officials said. The surgery planning was improved through the use of 3-D computers and 3-D-printed cutting guides.

"The life that had been in pause is now back in play," Rodriguez said. "And he's not wasting any time getting into it."

Since his surgery, Underwood has been able to return to hobbies like golf and restoring cars. He even sent Rodriguez a photo of himself skydiving.

"I can at least check off the box that a face transplant can tolerate jumping off of a plane 15,000 feet in the air," Rodriguez said, joking that he was glad Underwood didn't ask him beforehand.

"But what I think this photograph confirms is that Cam is living and doing the things he enjoys," he added. "When [patients] want to thank us and ask how can they ever thank us, this is the greatest thanks they could ever provide. That they're back in their lives doing what they enjoy."

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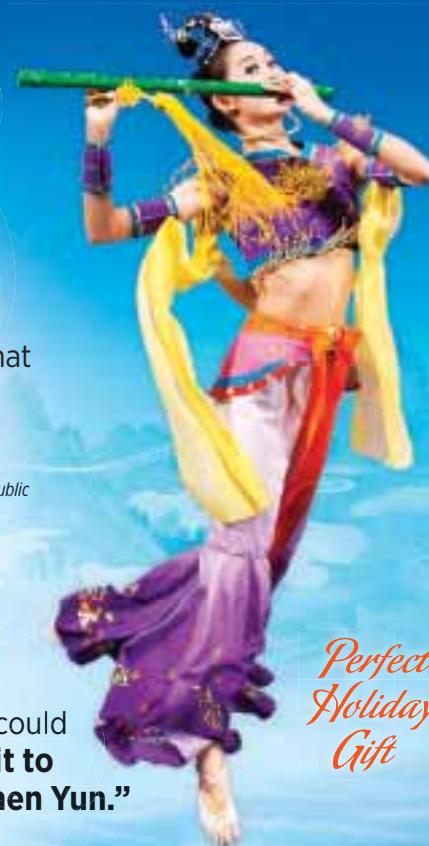
—Daniel Herman, former Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

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De Blasio to allocate \$8 million to help fight the opioid epidemic in the Bronx

Drug overdose deaths have risen to 70,000, driving down U.S. life expectancy for the second consecutive year.



ANNA HARSTEDT
letters@metro.us

America is in the midst of the deadliest drug crisis in history with more than 70,000 deaths attributed to overdose in 2017, a 10 percent increase from 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In an effort to battle the epidemic, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Wednesday that the city will allocate \$8 million in response to the still-rising death rate from opioid overdoses in the Bronx.



GETTY IMAGES

The funding will support an advertising campaign on the dangers of the powerful opioid fentanyl, distribution of the overdose-reversal drug naloxone and community groups that connect people to treatment.

"We're increasing re-

sources in the Bronx to make sure one of the hardest-hit boroughs has the resources it needs to turn the tide on this devastating epidemic," Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a statement.

The crisis in the Bronx stems from a surge of opioids in a place where

some residents have long struggled with addiction. Heroin and fentanyl have become much cheaper in recent years as the supply in the United States has grown, according to the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York.

"The battle against opioids has gotten harder over recent years, especially because of fentanyl," de Blasio said.

Fentanyl-laced heroin is 50 times more powerful than heroin itself and can be present in both cocaine and crack cocaine.

"The Bronx has a history of dealing with some of the toughest challenges in this city but not getting the support it deserves. That is part of why we still have a lot of work to do here," de Blasio said.

"We realized that the past approach wasn't going to work and we needed something much more aggressive. We had to bring the treatment to people that needed it."

The growing opioid epidemic kills more people than gun violence or car accidents and at a pace faster than the HIV epidemic at its peak in the 1980s.

For New Yorkers, the

"In the Bronx, you have so many people in housing who overdose. To actually sit there and witness this whole thing is devastating."

Terrell Jones,
longtime resident of the Bronx

epidemic's devastation is next door.

"In the Bronx, you have so many people in housing who overdose. To actually sit there and witness this whole thing is devastating," Terrell Jones, a longtime resident of the Bronx, told The New York Times.



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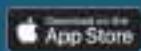


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Former Trump lawyer Cohen pleads guilty to lying to Congress

Appearing in federal court, Cohen admits to false statements about a Trump Organization real estate project in Moscow.

President Donald Trump's longtime personal lawyer Michael Cohen pleaded guilty on Thursday to making false statements to Congress regarding a Trump Organization real estate project in Moscow, prompting Trump to call Cohen a liar and a "weak person."

Cohen entered his guilty plea in federal court in Manhattan to one count of making false statements to Congress in an investigation by lawmakers into whether Trump's campaign worked with Russia to sway the 2016



REUTERS

U.S. election in his favor. The plea increased the pressure on Trump during the ongoing special counsel investigation into Russia's role in the election.

The proposal at issue was to build a skyscraper bearing Trump's name in the Russian capital, a project that ultimately did

not materialize. Cohen provided false statements to both the Senate and House intelligence committees to create the false impression the Moscow real estate project had ended by the time the political primary season began, the charging document said.

Cohen said in court that in 2017, he submitted a written statement to Congress saying all efforts relating to the real estate project in Moscow had ceased by January 2016. Cohen said that in fact these efforts continued until June 2016.

Cohen also said that

in the statement to Congress, he claimed to have had limited contact with Trump concerning the project, when in fact it had been "more extensive." Cohen also said he falsely told Congress he never took any steps toward traveling to Russia, when in fact he had discussed traveling there, although he never did.

"He's a weak person and not a very smart person," Trump told reporters of Cohen. "He's got himself a big prison sentence. And he's trying to get a much lesser prison sentence by making up this story."

"This was a deal that didn't happen," Trump said of the real estate deal. "That was no deal. ... To my way of thinking, it was an option that I decided not to do."

In August, Cohen pleaded guilty to cam-

paign finance violations, tax evasion and bank fraud in a case brought by federal prosecutors in New York.

Thursday's guilty plea may signal Cohen is hoping for a lighter sentence on the charges in exchange for continuing to cooperate with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

"I made these misstatements to be consistent with Individual 1's political messaging and out of loyalty to Individual 1," Cohen said in court. He previously identified Individual 1 as Trump.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said in August 2017 that he had received an email in January 2016 from Cohen about a Moscow real estate project, but said he had neither replied nor discussed it with Putin. REUTERS



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Citi Bike to triple fleet size, double service area under expansion

Citi Bike is stretching out across the city with plans to double its service area and triple its number of ride-share bicycles over the next five years.

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the expansion on Thursday, which will make the bike-share service — already the largest in the nation — one of the biggest in the world.

The Citi Bike expansion is possible thanks to an agreement between New York City and Lyft. The ride-share service is investing \$100 million into the bike-share system.

"This expansion means tens of thousands more New Yorkers are going to have a fast and inexpensive way to get around their city," de Blasio said in a statement. "It also means much more reliable service for all the riders who already use Citi Bike. We welcome Lyft's investment to make Citi Bike bigger and better."

Officials hope the expansion helps more New



FLICKR/DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

dent and co-founder of Lyft, in a statement.

Borough presidents Eric Adams (Brooklyn) and Gale A. Brewer (Manhattan), along with City Council members, state officials and outgoing Public Advocate Letitia James all praised the expansion.

But Melissa Mark-Viverito, a candidate for public advocate, expressed some frustration at the news.

"What has 472 crumbling stations, 5.7 million delayed riders, and is regularly ignored by politicians?" she asked, in a statement. "In the last two days alone, elected officials have championed e-bikes, e-scooters, and a deal with Lyft to take over Citi Bike — but we haven't heard one word about the crumbling MTA. Maybe instead of patting themselves on the back for transferring Citi Bike ownership from one private corporation to another, these leaders should start talking about ways to fix the subway."

[Thursday's] announcement marks a major milestone in Lyft's growth as a sustainable transportation service that connects communities, and reduces unnecessary driving in urban centers," said John Zimmer, president of Lyft.

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Grumble Editor

ISN'T THERE A BETTER TIME TO TAKE A PHONE CALL?

Okay, what is up with people who take phone calls while they are in a public restroom? I would usually reserve such a word as "disrespectful" for something more dire and brazen, but people with that small amount of self-awareness

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the GRUMBLE

You gripe. We listen.

ISTOCK

really can't be described in any other way. It really makes me wonder how many times I have been the person on the other end of the line from someone who is talking loudly through a Bluetooth while saddled up

next to a urinal.

What's even worse is when you see someone in the middle of a phone call continue their conversation while walking into the bathroom and carrying on like nothing is out of the

ordinary. Recently, I was in the men's room and saw someone walk in while on the phone and say, "Yeah, don't worry, I just walked into the bathroom." Then that person did his business while still on the phone

with no care in the world. Can't this call wait? It seems like your body is trying to send you that very message. There's a time and place. Unfortunately, you can't always be closing all the time. Like in the bathroom, for

instance. Just get in and get out and save the phone call for later.

VENT TO US!
GRUMBLE@METRO.US

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STEPHEN HILLENBURG, R.I.P.

Earlier this week, the world lost the creator of "SpongeBob SquarePants," Stephen Hillenburg, after his battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. His off-kilter sense of humor and approach to empathy in both "SpongeBob" and his legendary Nickelodeon show "Rocko's Modern Life" inspired a whole generation of kids to embrace their weirdness for the better. His influence was felt the world over, and even led to none other than Beck to take to Twitter to deliver a moving eulogy of Hillenburg.

"Very sad to hear the news of the passing of Stephen Hillenburg, who years and years

ago used to be my neighbor and kindly did the artwork for the first music that I ever released," Beck wrote. The photo from the record was shot behind his apartment. "Better known as the creator of 'SpongeBob SquarePants,' I always remembered him as a genuinely sweet guy. I was lucky to get to run into him by chance at the airport a few months ago. Sending my condolences to his family and to all the friends who are missing him today and thinking about old times."

As we mourn Hillenburg, it's amazing to see the work that he left behind and how he shaped our culture for the better. R.I.P., Stephen Hillenburg. You will be missed.



Please remember to send your Humbles to humble@metro.us. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

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Aries Tidy up loose ends. Don't leave any paperwork unfinished. Taking care of someone else's affairs will lead to an unexpected reward. Don't reveal private or personal information.



Taurus You'll learn a lot through observation. Dealing with people who are different from you will be eye-opening. Don't fear or feel threatened by change. Be positive and keep moving.



Gemini Look at what you can achieve and be honest about what you cannot do. Playing it straight will deter others from expecting or asking for too much.



Cancer Make travel plans or arrangements for end-of-year festivities. Double up on your workload in order to free up more time to enjoy with friends and family.



Leo Social events will change the way you think and could push you toward a healthier lifestyle. Stick to a set limit to help avoid excessive behavior.



Virgo Get involved in activities that will put you in the spirit of the season. You'll find the perfect way to please a loved one. A personal change will turn out well.



Libra Consistency will make a difference. Stop waffling and make a concrete plan. A conversation will reveal information that could influence the way you feel about someone.



Scorpio Do something creative. Decorate your place for upcoming events or make something that you can put on display or give to a loved one. Use your time wisely.



Sagittarius Problems with someone in a position of authority will not bode well for you. Avoid doing anything that may draw attention. Moderation will be in your best interest.



Capricorn Look for good ways to reduce your taxes. Moving money around and updating personal documents before they lapse should be a priority. Don't offer a handout to someone pestering you.



Aquarius Look at the big picture and make an adjustment to the way you earn your living. Take steps to protect your reputation. An emotional matter should be handled with tact.



Pisces Emotional matters will surface, causing a problem with a partner, sibling or close friend. Watch what you say. Once the words are out of your mouth, there will be no reversing the damage done.

EUGENIA LAST

THINGS TO DO

Here's to December



PROVIDED

The last month of the year isn't slowing down with festivals, parties and merriment all around.



EVA KIS
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The world is going to the cats and dogs

Our pets change our lives as much as we change theirs, and the annual, nationally touring Cat Film Festival (Dec. 1) and Dog Film Festival (Dec. 2) celebrate that special bond with two days of feature films and shorts featuring stories that are clever, heartfelt, real-life, animated and more. Lovingly curated by The Radio Pet Lady Network's Tracie Hotchner, each day features two blocks of films at the SVA Theater — pick one and get ready for the feels. catfilmfestival.com, dogfilmfestival.com



Good Riddance Day in Times Square. JASON KEMPIN

menorah on Grand Army Plaza. The rabbi ascends by cherry-picker to the giant menorah to place a lantern once every eight nights, but you'll want to be there for the first night (Dec. 2) for live music, free latkes and small gifts for children, plus street vendors and other fun. largestmenorah.com

Spend a night eating latkes

There's no wrong way to eat a potato, but the humble latke deserves its classic status. The annual Latke Festival at the Brooklyn Museum takes the potato pancake concept to the next level with over-the-top dishes from some of the best chefs in

the city, who zhuzh it up with caviar, truffles, hot honey and other goodies for you to enjoy. Expect unlimited bites plus live entertainment and cocktails, all to benefit nutrition education in the city through the Sylvia Center. Dec. 3, 6-8:30 p.m., 200 Eastern Parkway, \$75, eventbrite.com

See all the holiday windows

Yes, it's already pretty cold outside, but don't let that stop you from the incredible holiday window displays created by the city's biggest department stores. Or in the case of Saks Fifth Avenue, turning their entire storefront into an LED castle com-

plete with live musical performances. And then go inside and check out the cool ways stores are reinventing the shopping experience to woo customers back to brick-and-mortar retail.

Here come all the Santa Clauses

Gather your children indoors — you won't want to meet the jolly elves of SantaCon. We here at Metro are fans of the annual merry bar crawl, where attendees dress up as Kris Kringle, snowmen, reindeer and other



Latke Festival at Brooklyn Museum. BRANDON HARDIN

less PG-rated Christmas-themed creatures and pick a neighborhood to fuel their holiday spirit with holiday spirits. Dec. 8, santacon.nyc

Toast to the holidays

Gingerbread lattes aren't the only drink of the season. Find a holiday bar — there are plenty to choose from, whether you like snowy log cabins or beach-side surf shacks, family-style living rooms or a total party atmosphere — and ask the jolly bartender to pour you something festive.

Celebrate the Harry Potter version of Christmas

The Yule Ball wasn't a great experience for the kids of Harry Potter, but we Muggles don't mind celebrating the season by throwing our own. Harry and the Potters bring their ninth annual Yule Ball to the Bell House with lots of Potter-themed bands — come in your best dress robes and ready

to dance. Sorry, Ron! Dec. 15, thebellhouseny.com

The Met uses the word 'epic'

You know it's a big deal when one of the world's most venerable museums can't resist a superlative. "Epic Abstraction: Pollock to Herrera" showcases over 50 large-scale paintings and sculptures from Jackson Pollock, Carmen Herrera, Cy Twombly, Japan's Kazuo Shiraga and Hungary's Ilona Késérü. See why World War II led these artists to embrace abstract forms and why they've remained so popular. Dec. 17, metmuseum.org

Let your heart be light

Some things are better forgotten, but if you need a little help letting go, there's Good Riddance Day. Inspired by the Latin American tradition of burning bad-luck tokens before the new year, the Times Square Alliance is hosting "destruction services" to help you start 2019 with a clean slate. Write down what you want to get rid of, then experience the catharsis of putting it through a shredder. Dec. 28, timessquarenyc.org



How Bill Burr keeps 'F Is for Family' real

The creators of Netflix's popular animated comedy talk season 3.



ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

Early on in "F Is for Family" season three, Frank Murphy (Bill Burr) takes his wife and kids to a drive-in theater with new neighbor Chet Stevenson (Vince Vaughn) and his spouse. The scene is an important one for the new neighbors' budding friendship, but it's also ripe with much of the crude, biting humor that Burr's Netflix series is known for. Frank is constantly yelling at his kids, a creepy resident is spying on other people's cars in the background, and at any moment, it feels like everything could just go completely off the rails.

Except it won't, because unlike other adult-oriented animated series like "Rick & Morty" and "Adventure Time," "F Is for Family" goes out of its way to stay as real as possible — despite the fact that it's a cartoon. According to executive

producers Michael Price and Peter Billingsly, Burr is the man responsible for this.

"Bill is a huge part of that," says Price. "I worked on 'The Simpsons' for many years. The staff there was really funny, so the first instinct was often to try and think of the funniest things to say or do. Sometimes we'd go a little crazy with it, but not with 'F Is for Family.' In the writer's room, Bill always acknowledges that something is really funny if it is, but he always wants to make sure it's real. He wants to make sure we stay grounded with who the characters are."

"I'm the guy that tries to keep it tethered to reality, basically," says Burr. "I do this, I would say, because so that it doesn't get too absurd."

Of course, there's nothing inherently wrong with absurdity in comedy. The genre is rife with it, especially when it comes to family-centric sitcoms. And if it's a cartoon like "The Simpsons" or "Family Guy," then absurdity can easily be built into the show for-

"If you make them laugh their asses off and it's real, then people will connect with it more."

Bill Burr



GETTY IMAGES

mat itself. Nonetheless, Burr errs on the side of avoiding it with "F Is for Family."

"Once stuff gets too absurd, at least when I watch things, then I don't care about the characters," he explains. "It's just a comedy preference. The comedy I find really funny is

whenever it goes down the way it really goes down. I mean, there's plenty absurdity in the show, but it's just more of the tertiary characters. It's not the main characters."

So whenever the comic beats involve the stalker-y aspirations of the car-peeing neigh-

bor, Mr. Goomer (Trevor Devall), then the more absurdity the better. But if Frank, his wife Sue (Laura Dern), and his kids Kevin (Justin Long), Bill (Haley Reinhart) and Maureen (Debi Derryberry) are involved, then not so much.

"I think you connect with people more, the more real it is," says Burr. "If you make them laugh their asses off and it's real, then people will connect with it more. But if you make them laugh their asses off and it's over the top and absurd, they just go 'that was fun' and move on. It's when you get them to relate to stuff that I think you can better connect to the audience. That comes from the comics that I watched when I was growing up."

Yet that doesn't mean things will get silly, as

they did toward the end of season two with the foiled terrorist plot at the airport. Frank works at. Between the exploding people and the laugh-out-loud weirdness of season two's conclusion, viewers can rest assured that season three will keep up the pace.

"The great thing about our partnership with Netflix is that, if anything, they're pushing us to go as far as we want," says Billingsly. "So whether it's the darker humor or some of the profane language we use, they're very supportive of it. They're often pushing us to do more, so that's been nice. They're not constantly putting the shackles on us and saying, 'Jeez guys, you're going awfully far here.'"

"F Is for Family" season three is streaming on Netflix.



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Bill Burr tries to keep it real with "F Is for Family."

ALL PHOTOS NETFLIX UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Martin Short on the challenge of doing voice work and his BFF Steve Martin

The beloved actor plays three roles in "Elliot: The Littlest Reindeer."



GREGORY WAKEMAN
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Just hearing the name Martin Short is enough to make most people break out into a smile.

The Canadian actor and writer has made an indelible impression on anyone who has witnessed his energetic ball of wit and humor. Whether it was when he was on television with "SCTV" and "Saturday Night Live," in films like "Three Amigos," "Father Of The Bride" and "Mars Attacks!" or in theater with his collaborations with Steven Martin and his Tony Award-winning work in "Little Me."

The 68-year-old still

is and always will be looking for the next laugh. And he won't be overthinking it while he does, too.

"I look at people like Bill Hader, Fred Armisen, John Mulaney, Kristen Wiig and Kate McKinnon, they're people that have such brilliant minds and are original people," Short explains to Metro. "The thing is, if you're in this weird comedy club it is much less analytical than many people think. You don't think, 'I'm 68, what do I think is funny now?' You're still in the moment. Each new thing is just as important as the things were at 20."

Short's pursuit of a laugh led him to join the Christmas animated movie "Elliot: The Littlest Reindeer." But one part wouldn't suffice for Short, as he embraced the challenge of voicing three characters in the family



The comedy legend lends his voice to the holiday flick. GETTY IMAGES

comedy.

"It is fun. It is kind of challenging if you like to do voice work," says Short. "You can't hide behind a mustache or a wig. You have to make it so distinct so people don't know it is you doing three. So it is all about achieving that. It is more challenging. So more fun."

The film, which revolves around the titular horse trying-out to replace Blitzcn as Santa's reindeer when he suddenly retires, was even more alluring for Short because of the vocal ensemble already included Samantha Bee and John Cleese.

"That's an attraction. You like that company," admits Short. "If the only

other name is Kid Rock you go, 'Uh huh?' You're not jumping through hoops. Kid Rock is a great talent. I have great love for Kid Rock. I am just saying, if it is John Cleese you jump a little quicker."

Short says that his current working schedule, which consists of vocal work and weekly stage shows with his best friend Steve Martin, is the perfect size for him.

"Doing movies will just be more work. Getting up at 6 in the morning. I think the fractured approach is better than doing the intense thing at this stage of my life," says Short. "You're just looking for good vehicles and good platforms. You always did. In the old days, in Vaudeville, you looked for the best theaters. So Netflix is a pretty big theatre nowadays. So people want to play that." "For me to do an

odd appearance in a TV show, or doing a series or something on stage, or tour with Steve Martin, the eclectic nature I find to be more interesting," he adds.

Martin and Short will have performed "Now You See Them, Soon You Won't" 80 times across the United States by the end of 2018, and it's clear that the duo is relishing being up on stage together again.

"That's like going fishing," says Short. "You go out on the road with a band and your best friend and you play Pittsburgh and maybe Boston over three days and you have a riot on stage. The audiences are fantastic."

"Then you do it three weeks later again. It is never overwhelming," he adds. "Instead, it is just so much fun."

"Elliot: The Littlest Reindeer" hits theaters Nov. 30.



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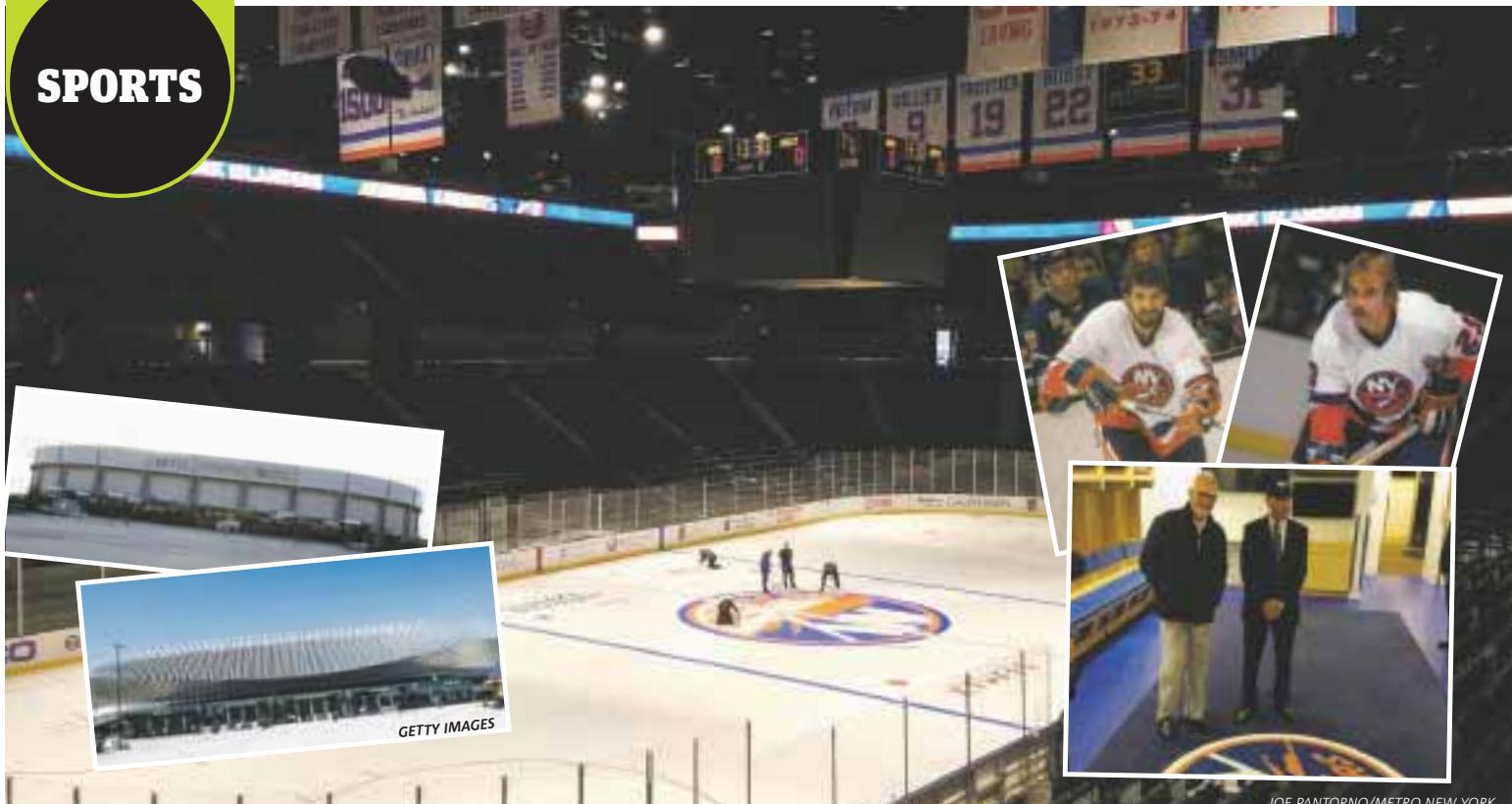
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SPORTS



The Nassau Coliseum was refurbished shortly after the Islanders headed to Brooklyn in 2015 (inset on left). On Saturday, they'll take the ice on Long Island once again with Clark Gillies (above, left) and Bobby Nystrom (right) in attendance.

Gillies, Nystrom ready for Islanders' long-awaited Nassau Coliseum return

Brooklyn-based NHL franchise takes ice at former home for first time in three years.

 JOE PANTORNO
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It might look plenty different, but not much had changed for New York Islanders legends Bobby Nystrom and Clark Gillies as they toured their old home, the Nassau Coliseum, on Wednesday afternoon.

After three years, \$10 million in renovations, and a failed move to Brooklyn, the NHL franchise is set to take the ice at its former home once again in the regular season.

Saturday night against the Columbus Blue Jackets (7 p.m.) will provide a homecoming for a majority of the fanbase — now including Nystrom and Gillies — who had called the venue home from 1972-2015 before the team moved to the Bar-

clays Center.

The Islanders will split their home games between Brooklyn and the Coliseum for each of the next three seasons. Each venue will get 21 games this season before the Coliseum gets a combined 48 games over the following two years.

Nystrom, known as Mr. Islander after playing 14 seasons with the team, and the Hall-of-Famer Gillies, who played 12 years on Long Island, got a sneak peek at the spruced-up Coliseum in its hockey layout. Re-opened in April of 2017, the Coliseum's main purpose is to host special events such as concerts. Regardless, roomier seats, updated amenities and a more modern look, the fan experience has improved plenty at the arena nicknamed "The Old Barn."

"I've never seen the old place look so good," Gillies said. "I think the fans are going to be the big winners here. This place is gorgeous, they've done a lot of great work on it. I think everyone is going to be very thrilled when they

get in here."

What hasn't changed is the intimacy of the Coliseum. While renovations saw the seating capacity for hockey games drop from 16,700 to 13,900, the arena's low roof coupled with both levels' proximity to the ice has ensured that the Coliseum is going to be as loud as ever on game nights.

"I think that the structure itself was kept similar because you want that noise factor... that's the most important thing," Nystrom said. "You look at all the buildings that have been replaced... they were so tight in those days and it was just a little bit of a different feel. So to come back here and see it the way that it is now is going to be fantastic."

Among other notable changes are the locker rooms. The Islanders' changing room is now where the visitor's room used to be while getting updated to comfortably house an NHL team.

"My gosh, you can fit two of our locker rooms in their locker room now," Nystrom joked.

During its 43-year run as the primary home of the Islanders, the franchise won four consecutive Stanley Cups from 1980-1983 which included an NHL record 19-straight postseason series wins. Nystrom and Gillies were both a part of those teams, which helped put Long Island on the professional sporting map, providing a true hometown franchise for the 118-mile stripe east of New York City.

It was Nystrom that sparked the dynasty as his overtime game-winning goal in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final against the Philadelphia Flyers in 1980 delivered the franchise's first Stanley Cup.

"We have so many memories here and just in talking to the fans... they're just absolutely thrilled that the team is coming back here to play some games," Nystrom said. "It makes it a lot easier for the youngsters to come... it's going to be a great thing for Long Island."

Failed attempts to upgrade the arena and its crumbling infrastruc-

ture throughout the first decade of the millennium forced the team West to Brooklyn where the Barclays Center was expected to be their home for at least the next 25 years.

It pitted most of its fans based on Long Island with a long commute on the LIRR. Not to mention the players, as well.

As a result, attendance at the Barclays Center was always rooted at the bottom of the league's list. After averaging just over 13,360 fans per night in their first two years at the Barclays Center, the Islanders ranked dead-last in attendance last season with an average of 12,000 fans per game.

Through 11 games this season, the Islanders rank dead-last in the league yet again with 10,477 fans per game.

"I think there had been a little separation between the fans and the team over the past three years," Gillies said. "Playing here at the Coliseum is going to bring those two groups a little tighter."

Even with the small-

NHL, the Nassau Coliseum is going to yield some big, loud crowds for the Islanders.

"I know the players are going to love it," Gillies said. "They have a 10-minute commute instead of a two-hour commute to the Barclays Center. A lot of real, big positives for the fans and players."

As for the fans, Nystrom is expecting big things as he and Gillies will be in attendance on Saturday night.

"The fact of the matter is we have the greatest fans, the loudest fans... you just can't duplicate what you have here," he said. "I expect the fans to really come out and root the team on... It's going to be rocking."

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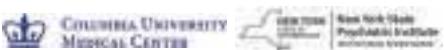
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 at public auction at the Queens
 County Courthouse, 88-11 Suphin
 Blvd., Courtroom 25, Jamaica, NY
 on December 14, 2018 at 10:00
 AM premises known as 122-32
 Rockaway Boulevard,
 South Ozone Park, NY 11420.
 All that certain plot piece or parcel
 of land, with the buildings and
 improvements erected, situate,
 lying and being in the County of
 Queens, City and State of New York,
 BLOCK: 11716, LOT: 41.
 Approximate amount of judgment
 is \$661,193.46 plus interests and
 costs. Premises will be sold subject
 to provisions of filed Judgment
 Index # 704108/2013. For sale
 information, please visit
Auction.com at www.Auction.com
 or call (800) 280-2832.
 David Weprin, Referee
 FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS
 WEISMAN & GORDON LLP
 53 Gibson Street
 Bay Shore, NY 11706

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE
 SUPREME COURT:
 QUEENS COUNTY.
 THE BANK OF NEW YORK
 MELLON TRUST COMPANY
 N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR
 GMAC HOME EQUITY
 LOAN TRUST 2007-HE2, Pltf.
 vs. BARYLAI OBAIDI, et al,
 Dfts. Index #701812/13.
 Pursuant to judgment of
 foreclosure and sale entered
 October 11, 2018, I will sell at
 public auction in Courtroom #25
 of the Queens County Supreme
 Court, 88-11 Suphin Blvd.,
 Jamaica, NY on December 7,
 2018 at 10:00 a.m. prem. k/a
 158-18 77th Road, Flushing,
 NY a/k/a Block 6828, Lot 37.
 Said property beginning at a
 point on the southerly side of
 77th Road, distant 320 ft.
 westerly from the corner
 formed by the intersection of
 the southerly side of 77th Road
 and the westerly side of 160th
 Street, being plot 100 ft. x 40
 ft. Approx. amt. of judgment is
 \$72,582.74 plus costs and
 interest. Sold subject to terms
 and conditions of filed judgment
 and terms of sale.
 CYNTHIA BAKER, Referee.
 COHN & ROTH,
 Attny. for Pltf.,
 100 East Old Country Rd.,
 Mineola, NY. #95832

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
 that a license, Number 1314761,
 for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been
 applied for by the undersigned to
 sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail
 in a corporate meetings and
 shared workspace venue, under
 the Alcoholic Beverage Control
 Law at One Liberty Plaza,,
 New York, NY 10006. New
 York County, for on premises
 consumption. Convene at One
 Liberty Plaza LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
 that a license, Number Pending,
 for On Premise Liquor has been
 applied for by the undersigned to
 sell Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider at
 retail in a Restaurant, under the
 Alcoholic Beverage Control Law,
 at 747 Franklin Ave., Brooklyn,
 NY 11238. Kings County, for on
 premises consumption. Outlook
 Good LLC d/b/a Hunku Dory.

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GAMES

ACROSS

- 1 Chocolate ___ cookies
 5 Many an East European
 9 ___ the fool; behaves stupidly
 13 Solitary
 15 Sharpen
 16 Cowboy's shoe
 17 Subside
 18 ___ of; next to
 20 Physician, familiarly
 21 Coolidge, to friends
 23 Prior to today
 24 Discontinue
 26 Galloped
 27 Business declines
 29 Ploy
 32 Accepted standards
 33 Line of travel
 35 Short sleep
 37 ___ in a Manger"
 38 Sudden forward rush
 39 Office note
 40 Acquire
 41 Old Roman robes
 42 Make merry
 43 Passes on, as a message

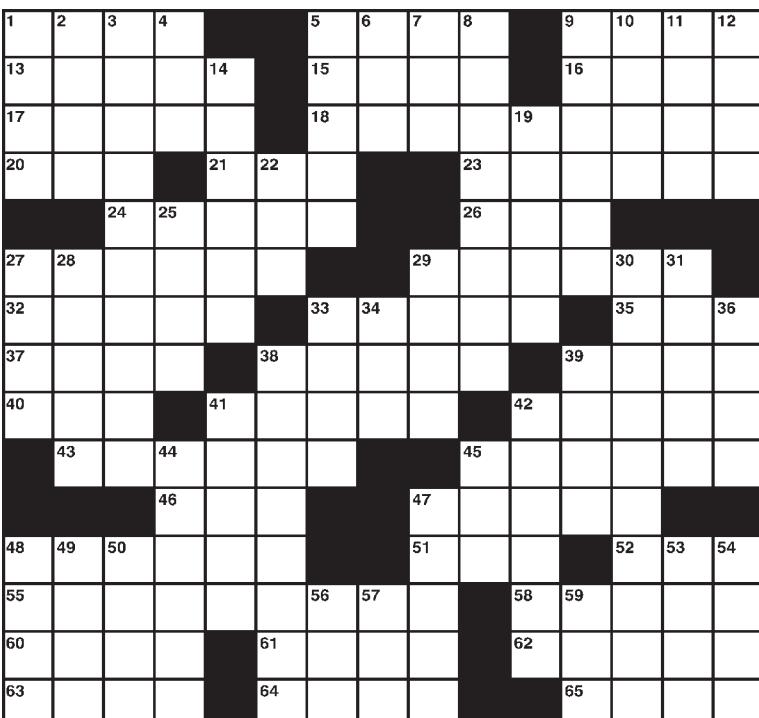
45 In one's dotation
 46 "I ___ poor wayfaring stranger..."

47 Counter an argument
 48 Digger's tool
 51 Thirsty Frenchman's need
 52 IM pioneer
 55 "The Pelican State"
 58 Fictional tale
 60 Linkletter & others
 61 Small store
 62 Uses an emery board
 63 TV series for Mike Farrell
 64 Bugle song
 65 Late July babies

DOWN

- 1 ___ in; wearing
 2 Burn
 3 Wrong
 4 Animal in the house
 5 Layered rock
 6 Chat room laugh
 7 Year south of the border
 8 Worship
 9 Not present
 10 Quarter or dime
 11 Commotion
 12 One-dish meal
 14 Summarizes
 19 Kelly or Slick

22 Donkey
 25 Acting award
 27 Unexpected obstacle
 28 Certain berth
 29 Yanks
 30 Sure to happen
 31 Bedouin's transport
 33 Floor coverings
 34 "___ Clear Day, You Can See Forever"
 36 Flagstaff
 38 U.S. colonist supportive of Britain
 39 Restaurant's list
 41 Subdues
 42 Reject sharply
 44 Lush; profuse
 45 Body of water
 47 Gathers crops
 48 Close angrily
 49 Circle dance
 50 On the ___ with; not speaking to
 53 Bread spread
 54 Not as much
 56 ___ moment; instant of realization
 57 File drawer, perhaps
 59 Feel miserable



BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch



Adventure
 American
 Author
 Clemens
 Essay

Gilded Age
 Huck Finn
 Humorist
 Mark
 Samuel

Satire
 Sawyer
 Tom
 Twain
 Wit

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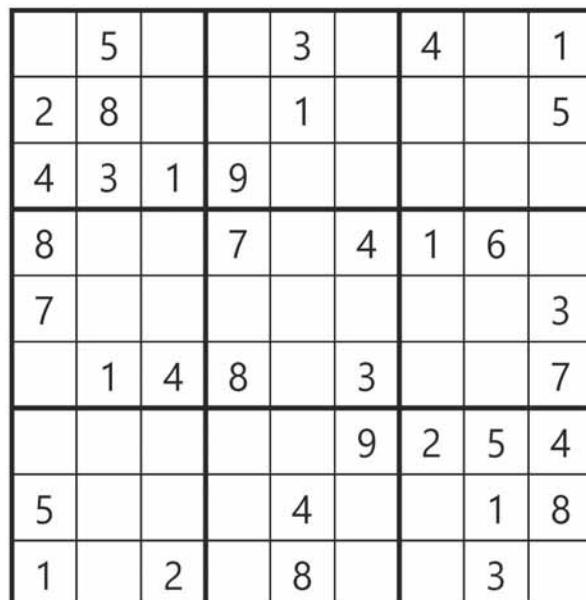


metro.us/wander

Category: Music Mixups



Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.



Yesterday's Answers



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